

Joseph Raffael

1st time I saw Joseph
was Steve's wedding in Davis.
It was outdoors on a
school size lawn.
Hundreds of people but
you couldnt miss him.
He looked taller than everyone.
He radiated actually glowed.
Had me thinking in
religious figures.
Since then I've gotten
to know him & carefully
screen out the spooky stuff.
But you catch it
from his paintings of
animals or from the
gigantic head he did
of Picasso: a spirituality
so straight forward &
loaded you feel in danger
of suffocation or
conversion.

Got To Go North

Dreams nag me put me
in bed a boy
in her house...
by the window...
curtains ghosting in
with smells of new lumber
& cherry blossoms...
Got to get up to Susanville
before Winter.
See my Grandmother.
Tell her I love her
before snow
cuts us off.

-- Phil Weidman

North Highlands, CA